

Physical and Mental Health Task Group Charter
Transitions to Adult Living Implementation Team

Task Group Participants: George Delavan, & Vicki Cottrell—co-chairs, Ming Wang, LeRoy Franke, Mary Lou Emerson, Barbara Thompson, Stacy Brubaker, Eric Jenkins, Melissa Rhea

Background Supporting the Physical and Mental Health Task Group: A youth leadership summit on “Transitions to Adult Living” was held in June 2003. At that summit youth met to determine what their top concerns were in connection with transitioning from foster care to adult living. The youth addressed needs and goals in the areas of education, employment, personal life issues and housing. These youth highlighted areas of concern and desired goals in connection with their needs. In response to the needs of youth transitioning into adulthood, task groups have been formed to accomplish goals in a timely manner. (*Year One of Utah’s Transitions to Adult Living Support Network Five Year Plan, October 2003*)

Purpose: It is acknowledged that maintaining good health is essential for youth to successfully transition to adulthood. Many youth have physical and mental health needs that persist after leaving care and require intensive and specialized health services. However, youth often lose routine preventive care, care for chronic medical conditions, and access to mental health services when they leave foster care. Youth leaving care often don’t realize the difficulty in obtaining and paying for health care and insurance.

Tasks:

- Assess the health care and health insurance needs of youth exiting foster care and determine how these needs can be met.
- Explore the cost and feasibility of providing Medicaid to former foster youth to successfully transition from foster care (FCIA Medicaid, CHIP, PCN and other options).
- Assist youth address and manage their routine and critical health and mental health needs.
- Coordinate with the Utah Department of Health’s Adolescent Health Care Steering Committee, (Jennifer Mayfield), to collaborate regarding resources.

Authority of Physical and Mental Health Task Group - Scope of decision-making:

This group will receive ongoing direction from the Implementation Team until completion of assigned tasks. Task Group will present recommendations and proposals to the Implementation Team for approval prior to implementation.

Deliverables/Reporting Requirements:

1. After completing the above tasks, this group will address the lack of adequate health care and mental health services for young adults age 18 to 21.
2. This group will address other issues related to access to preventative and ongoing physical and mental health services.
3. The Task Group will report progress to the Implementation Team on a regular basis.
4. Specific Products such as a) fact sheet on available resources, and b) reports recommending ways to improve access to current services and documenting services needed but not available will be developed.

Special Provisions/Tenure: Individuals that are chosen or who volunteer to complete tasks and participate in this Task Group will be at the discretion of the agency they represent and the Implementation Team. This Task Group may solicit staff and stakeholder input and involvement as needed to complete tasks.